

# 14

A  
Dissertation

Dated March 14<sup>th</sup>.

On

Idiopathic Dyspepsia

for

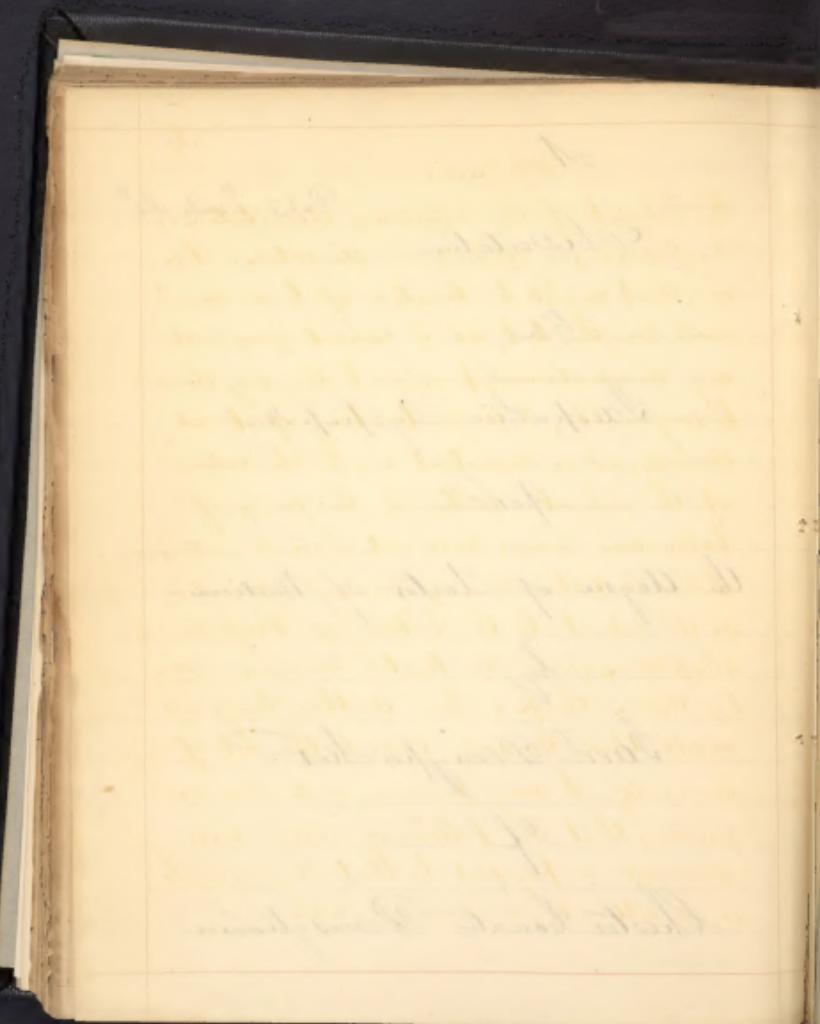
the degree of Doctor of Medicine

by

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of

Chester County, Pennsylvania



## Preface. —

The subject of the following Dissertation is Dyspepsia, or disordered Digestion. It is one, that might be treated of to a considerable length, but, as I cannot from existing circumstances, presume to lay any claim to originality, I prefer treating of it as concisely, as is consistent with the nature of the subject. Although the works of Bally and Thomas have not been neglected, I am indebted chiefly for my information on the subject, to the lectures of Professor Chapman, and the treatise on indigestion by Wilson Phillips. These Authors being less fallible than commonly falls to the lot of humanity, I may presume, with some confidence, that the following essay will serve as a passport to that degree, which is its ultimate, and only end. —



## Idiopathic Dyspepsia.

To the luxuries and refinements of civilization, we are indebted for many diseases which make inroads upon human happiness, among which, not the least prominent is Dyspepsia. Associating itself with the sedentary and studious, the indolent and luxurious, Man in his native simplicity, seems not to be the object of its attack, contenting himself with the necessities of life, which are few, and those where scattered around him. To every taste there is annexed a penalty, and in the brightest cup of pleasure, mingle many bitter drops of misery.

Dyspepsia usually commences with sense of oppression after eating, which



is soon followed by nausea, and sometimes vomiting, by sour excretions, which are generally of carbonated, by anger, by flatulency, and by irritation of the stomach and bowels. The nausea is also frequently followed by a sense of constriction about the throat. There is now furred tongue, loss of appetite, foetid breath, constipation, paleness of the countenance, unequal pulse, and disturbed sleep. Very frequently the appetite is irritated, and unwholesome articles are demanded; such as unripe fruit, ashes, chalk, and a variety of improper substances. It sometimes happens, however, that the appetite remains unimpaired, and the assimilating function performed pretty well:

The mind, at length, participates in the



disease; the temper becomes exceedingly irritable, the mind by fits loses its accustomed energy, the ideas become confused, and the patient at length, finds it difficult to command his attention. His sleep is disturbed by perplexing dreams, and sometimes by fits of nightmare. At length, he becomes despondent, and sometimes hypochondriack.

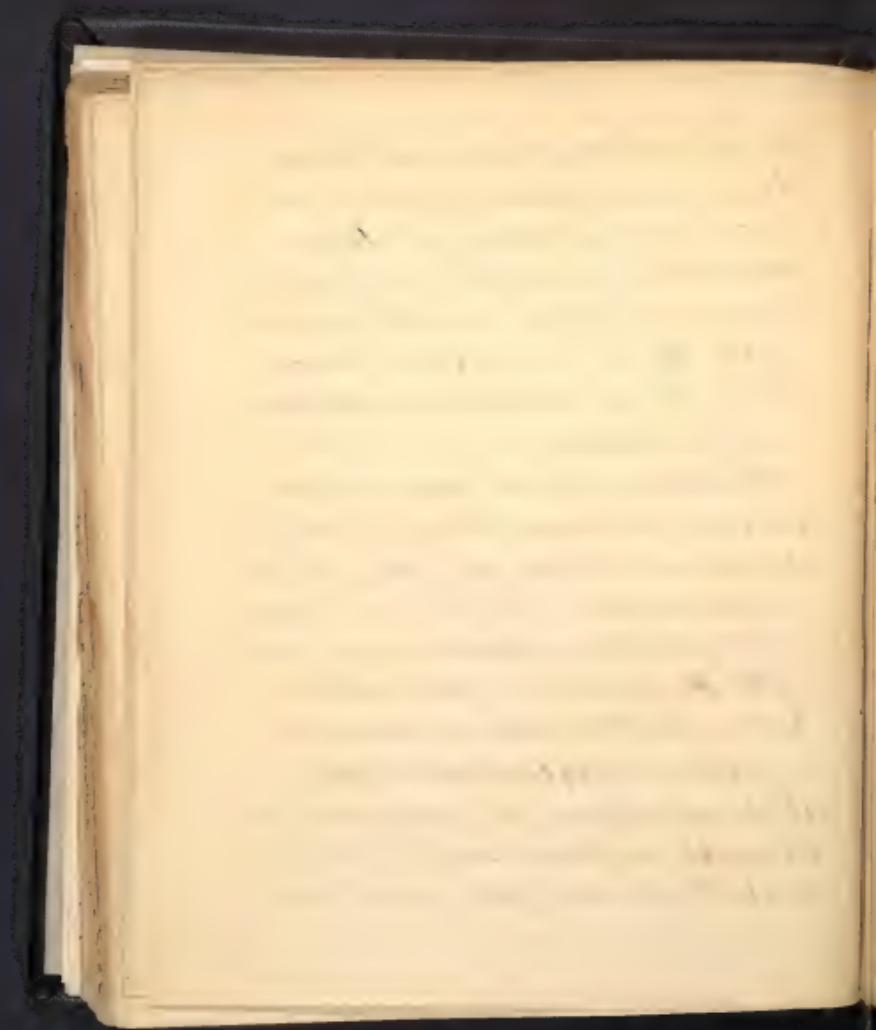
As the disease advances, several very troublesome and painful symptoms arise, which considerably aggravate the misery of the patient. These are Pyrosis, ear-  
algia, Gastrodynia, lighthead-  
ache, and palpitations of the heart. The whole of these symptoms, may appear in the progress of the same case, but it is rather an unfrequent occurrence. The bowels become disturbed, Diarrhoea



ulcerates with Constipation, and the discharges assumes various appearances. Sometimes they are yellow, green, blue, or black; but generally they are of a light hue, and of a firm consistence, indicating the absence of bile. Sometimes the fistula are discharged, with little, or no alteration.

The urine, is, for the most part, copious and pale, though sometimes it is covered with an oily film, which has been attributed to an imperfect state of the assimilating function.

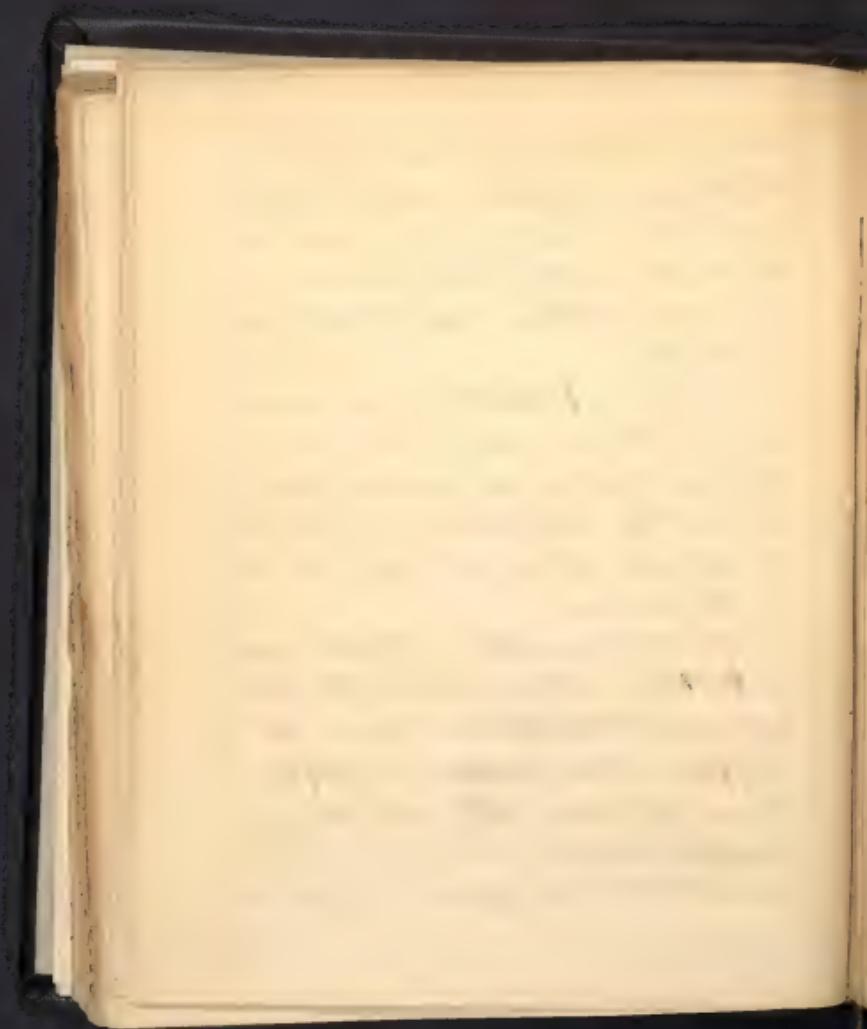
In the progress of the disease, the patient is tormented with a variety of sympathetic symptoms; such as, pain in the breast, sides (more frequently of the left, than right) or head, derangements of the functions of hearing, seeing, smelling and



tasting, tenderness of the scalp, &c  
Doulourax, Hysteric. Tetanic, affection  
of the voice, temporary loss of power in  
the limbs, numbness, and an endless  
variety of affections, in almost every part  
of the body.

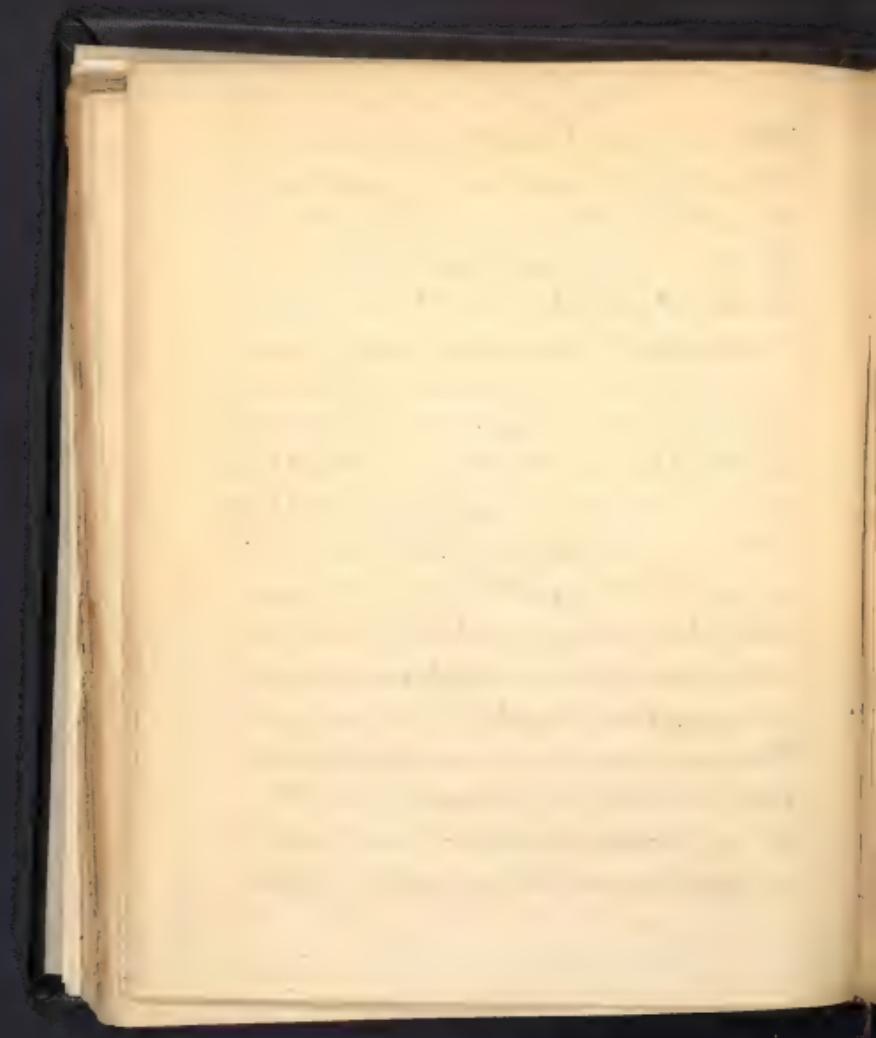
The skin, in protracted cases becomes  
dry, and shrivelled; the surface cold,  
the hair parched, and inclining to stand  
on end; the patient hanging about  
the fire, and experiencing frequent fits  
of shivering.

The skin is sometimes affected with  
a troublesome itching, and eruptions; not  
unfrequently take place. These are the  
symptoms, which constitute, what proper-  
ly may be called, the first stage of  
hysterical dyskinesia. They have had  
given to them, the appellation of nervous



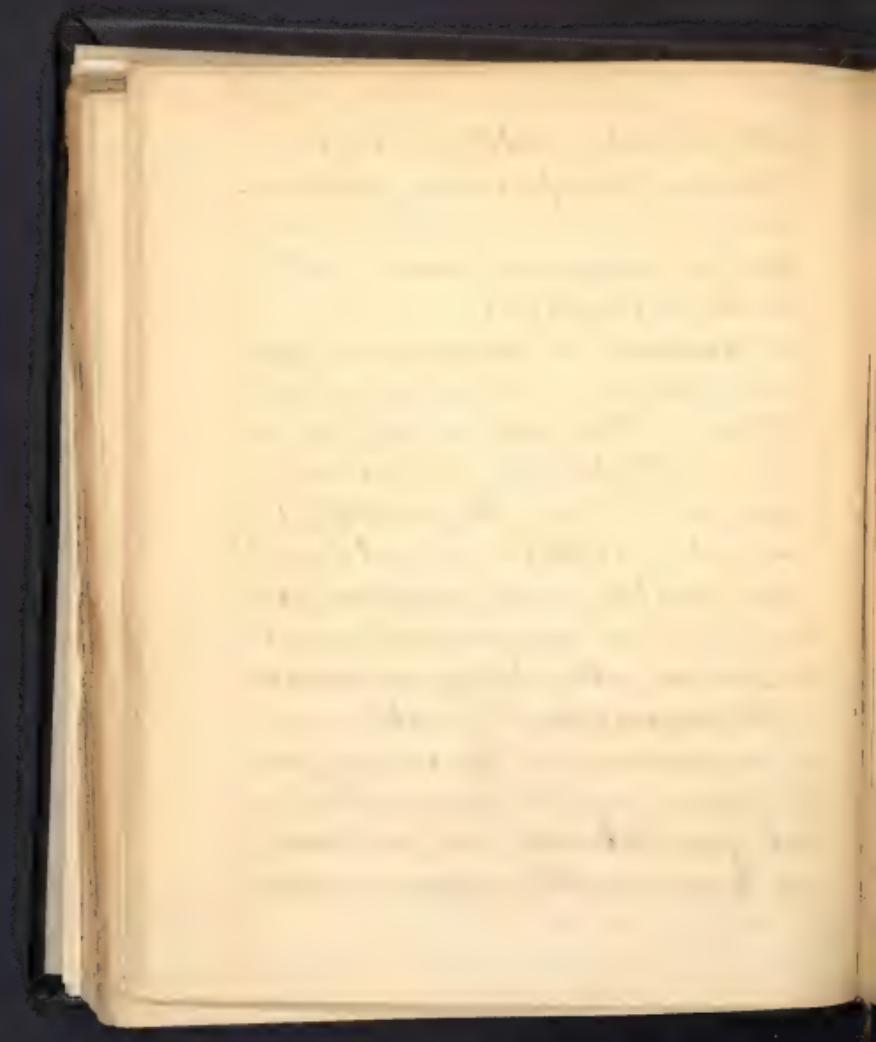
The disease if not arrested, assumes a more  
appearance, and a train of symptoms  
arises, which stands as the definition of  
the second stage of this disease.

The muscular system now becomes distur-  
bed, and the disease troubles itself with  
a strongly marked inflammatory character.  
The pulse becomes hard, quick, and corded,  
the skin parched, and dry, the thirst in-  
creases, hectic flushes supervene; together with  
a burning sensation in the palms of the  
hand, and soles of the feet, a clean pol-  
ished tongue, a sensation of fullness  
in the Epigastric, and Hypochondriac re-  
gions, with a considerable degree of  
tenderness or prepared. The urine de-  
posits a latenter sediment, and the  
bowels remain irregular. The sympathetic  
affections now become of an inflam-



mature character, constituting Hepatitis, pulmonary consumption, or some other disease. These, of course, become entirely independent of the original disease, and, in fact, sometimes supplant it.

Causes.—The causes of Idiopathic Dyspepsia, are those which act directly on the Stomach; secondly, those which act indirectly, through the medium of other parts. Among the former, may be enumerated. 1. Certain narcotic and improper articles, such as, opium, tobacco, strong tea or coffee, alcohol spirits, bitters, vinegar, strong pepper, and aromatics. 2. The frequent, and long continued use, of any medicine, and particularly Nitre. 3. Exclusive vegetable diet, particularly that of a flatulent kind. 4. Drinking large quantities of warm or cold

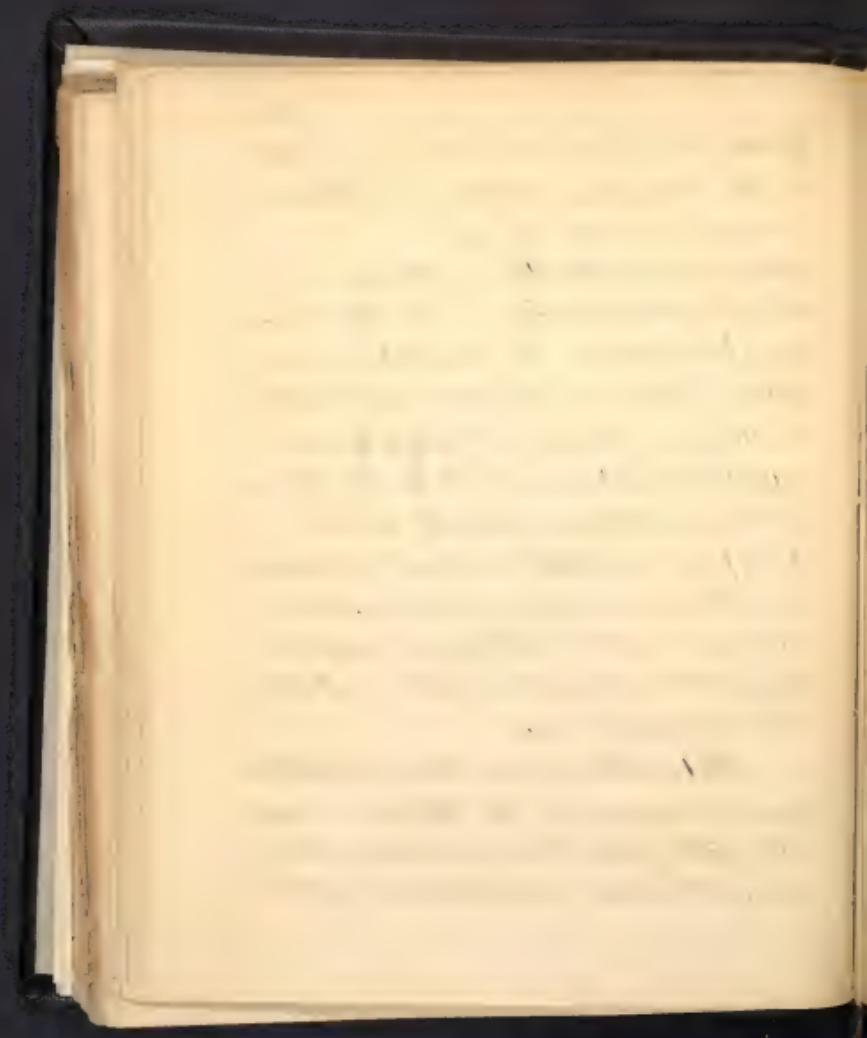


fluids. 5. The too frequent use of Stimulants. 6. Immoderate repetition of stomach, from eating or drinking.

Among the second class of causes, or those which act indirectly on the stomach, may be mentioned 1. Indolent and sedentary habits. 2. Creepkin application to study. 3. Excess in venery. 4. Frequent intoxication; which partly belongs to the former class, and partly to this.

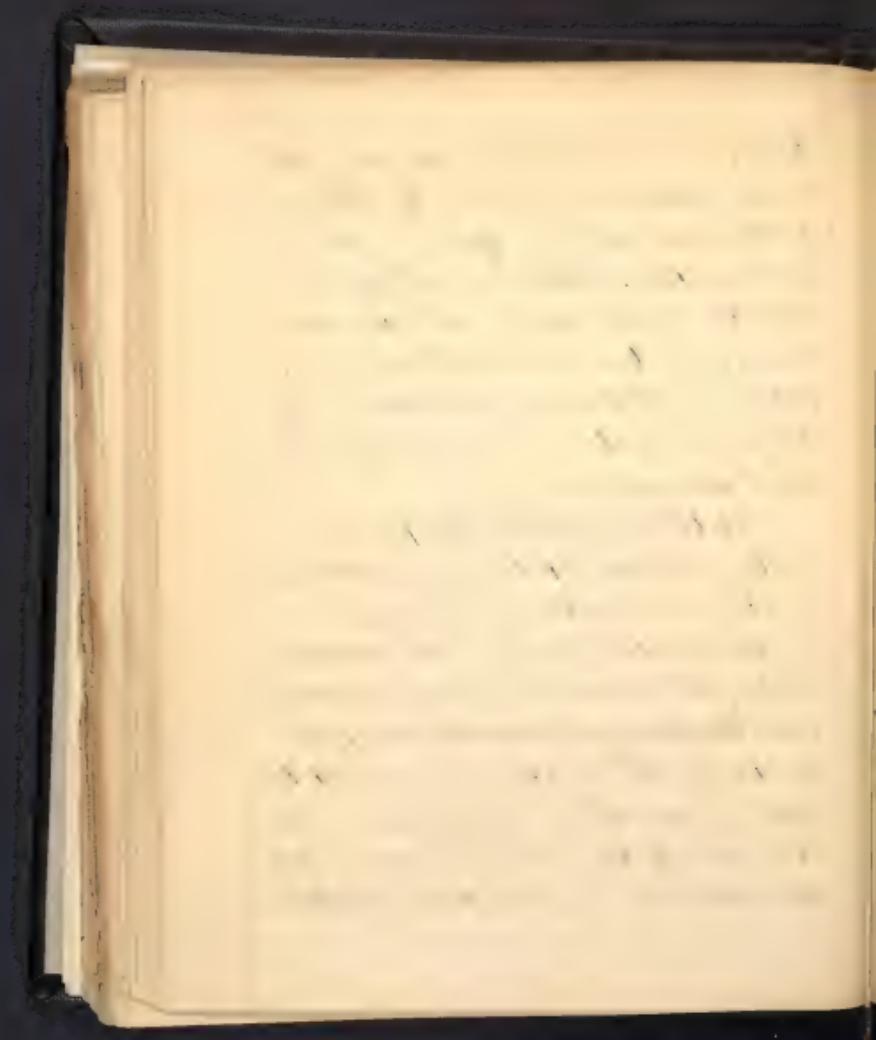
5. Exposure to cold and moist atmosphere without exercise; cold feet are particularly injurious. 6. Detraction of mind, from grief, or the indulgence of vehement and disorderly passions.

Post mortem examinations exhibit various appearances. The stomach is usually flabby and relaxed; sometimes, there is an alteration in the structure of the



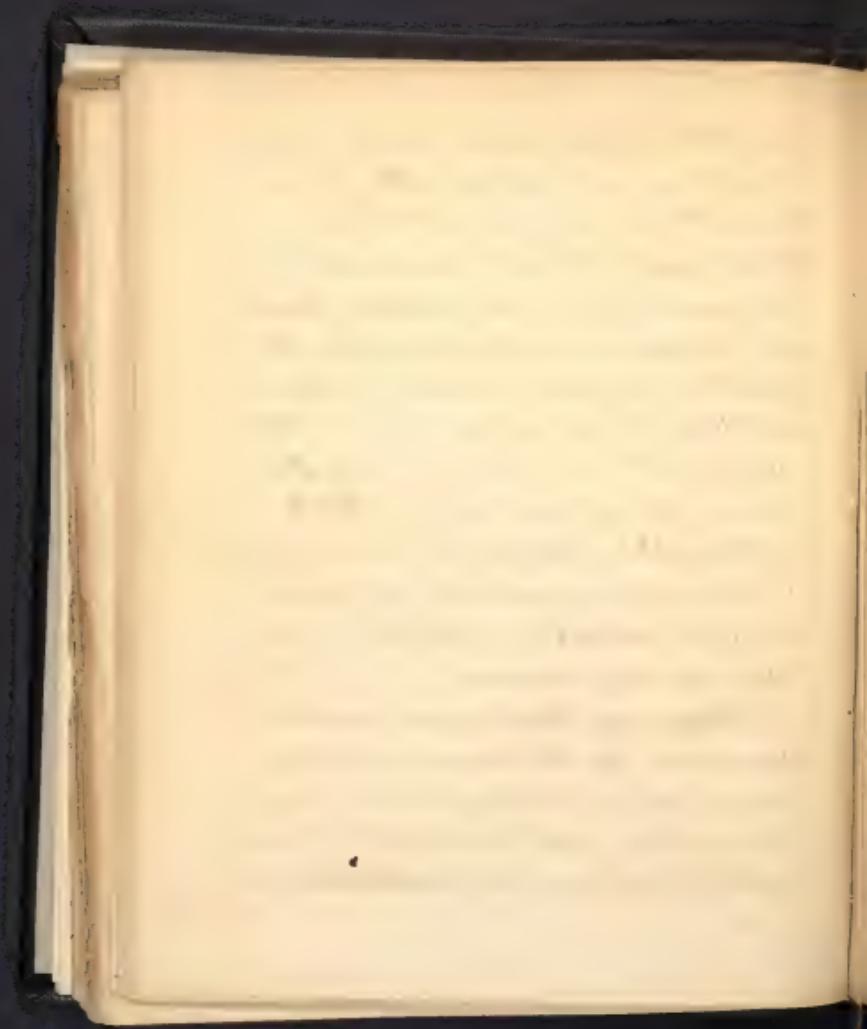
tissues, and in the female glands of the mucous coat; and if the case be advanced to the second stage, a species of chronic inflammation. Ulceration of the pylorus, and ulceration of the coat of the stomach, sometimes occurs, but it is much more frequent by the case, that the sympathetically affected organs (such as the Liver, Spleen, &c.) become disorganized. —

Pathology. — From the preceding history, it will not be difficult to understand the nature of Dyspepsia. The first Morbia proper in the establishment of the disease, is Nervous irritation. From this derangement of the nerves, the secretion of the gastric humor must be impaired, and the muscular fibers of the stomach affected. In consequence of the former, we have low evolutions, flatulencies,



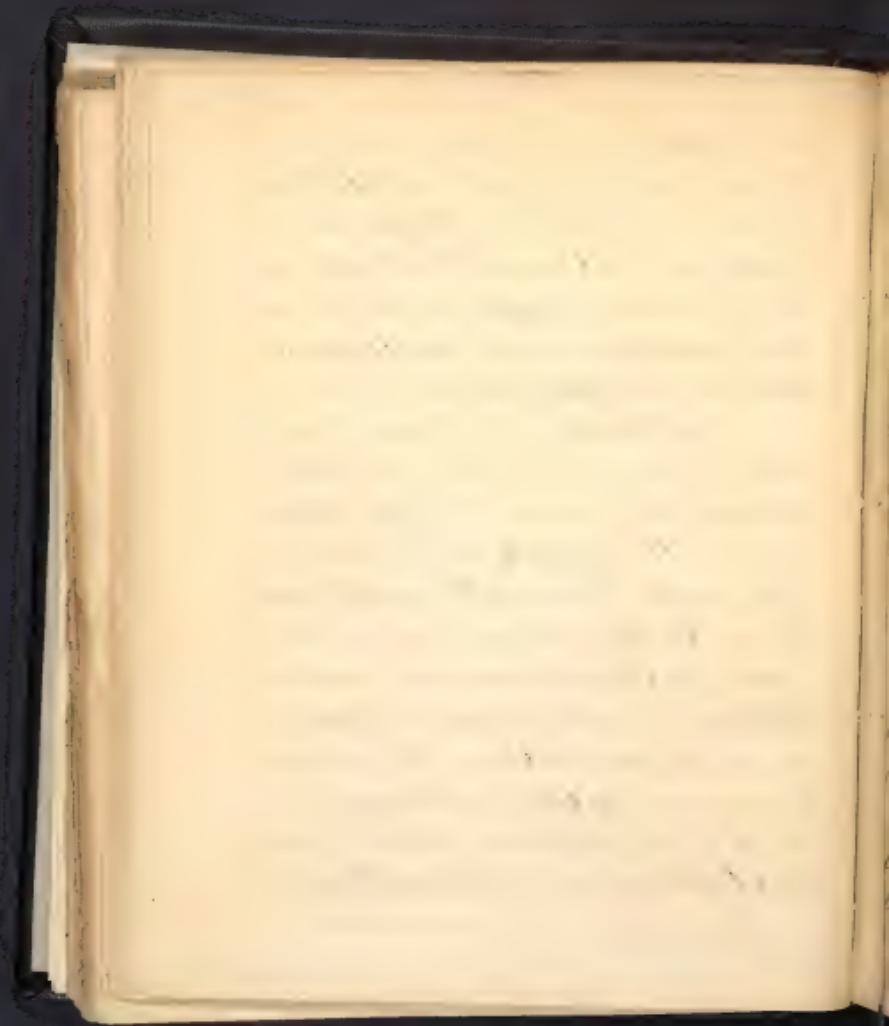
and distention from the food not being properly acted on, and of the latter, the want of weight and respiration at the Epigastric Region, by this with nausea, as a consequence of the food not being propell'd into the Duodenum. The loss of these two functions, necessarily increases this nervous irritation, which, continuing for some time, ability of the capillaries causes, producing congestion, which ventrals in inflammation. (Stone the tendons of) the Epigastrium, and all the febrile symptoms, connected with the second stage of dyspepsia.

Prognosis Other opinions as to the termination of this disease, must be founded upon the stage of the disease, the soundness of the constitution, the habits of the patient, and the disposition he



has to comply with our advice. In the commencement of the disease, the patient can generally be cured, if proper means be employed. But when the structure of the organs becomes implicated, it is needless to expect a cure, and our treatment must be wholly palliative.

Treatment - This varies considerably, according to the stage of the disease, you may call it in. If the disease be yet in the first stage, the exhibition of an emetic to remove the irritatory contents of the stomach, and prepare the system for other Remedies, will just claim attention. For this purpose Specacum has with the best effects. It will sometimes require repetition, which may be known by the Aches of stomach con-  
tent to this disease; but emetics should



not to be employed without discrimination,  
as they are one of the causes of this dis-  
ease. Next we recur to laxatives or di-  
purgatives. I shall mention only a few of  
the most prominent remedies of this class,  
leaving it useful to enumerate all the  
articles which have been, and may, be-  
enployed. All the saline and drastic  
purgatives must be avoided; to the last  
ter Rhubarb furnishes an exception.  
It, however, is liable to one objection; which  
is, that it leaves the bowels with a ten-  
dency to constipation. But if we should  
wish to use it, this objection may be el-  
minated, by combining with it, Castile-sap  
or Magnesia.

If there be torpor in the duodenum  
which may be known by a sense of oppres-  
sion after eating, an infusion of hen-bones



of Lemia, and one of Gentian, in a tincture of boiling water, will answer well. The dose is a wine-glassfull, just in anticipation of the oppression.

A combination of two Sulphurums, and calcined Magnesia in equal proportions, is an excellent laxative in Dyspepsia. To these laxatives, I shall add Maceat pills, the purgative purgatives, and equal quantities of Aloes and Assafida combined. These are the most important laxatives, for a common case of Dyspepsia. Their end is, to keep the bowels open; and the one best adapted to the particular case, should be employed. The next step in the treatment of this disease, is the exhibition of Tonics.

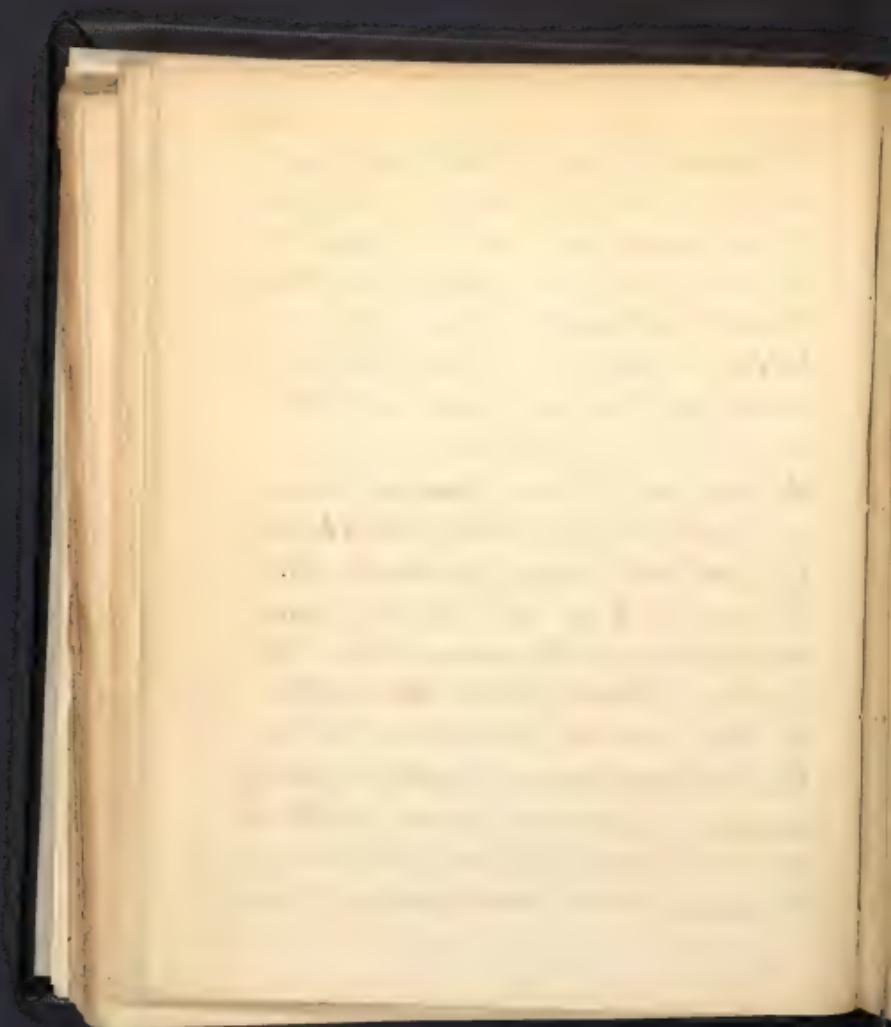
None of the vegetable kingdom, are the Passiflora, Stop. Gentian, Solomon, and the



Per. bark. The bark of this article, had at one time an unrivaled reputation in this disease, but it is now less prescribed than either of the above mentioned articles. When it is employed, it is given either in decoction, decoction or infusion, the bark of which, is best, added by some aromatic, particularly orange peel.

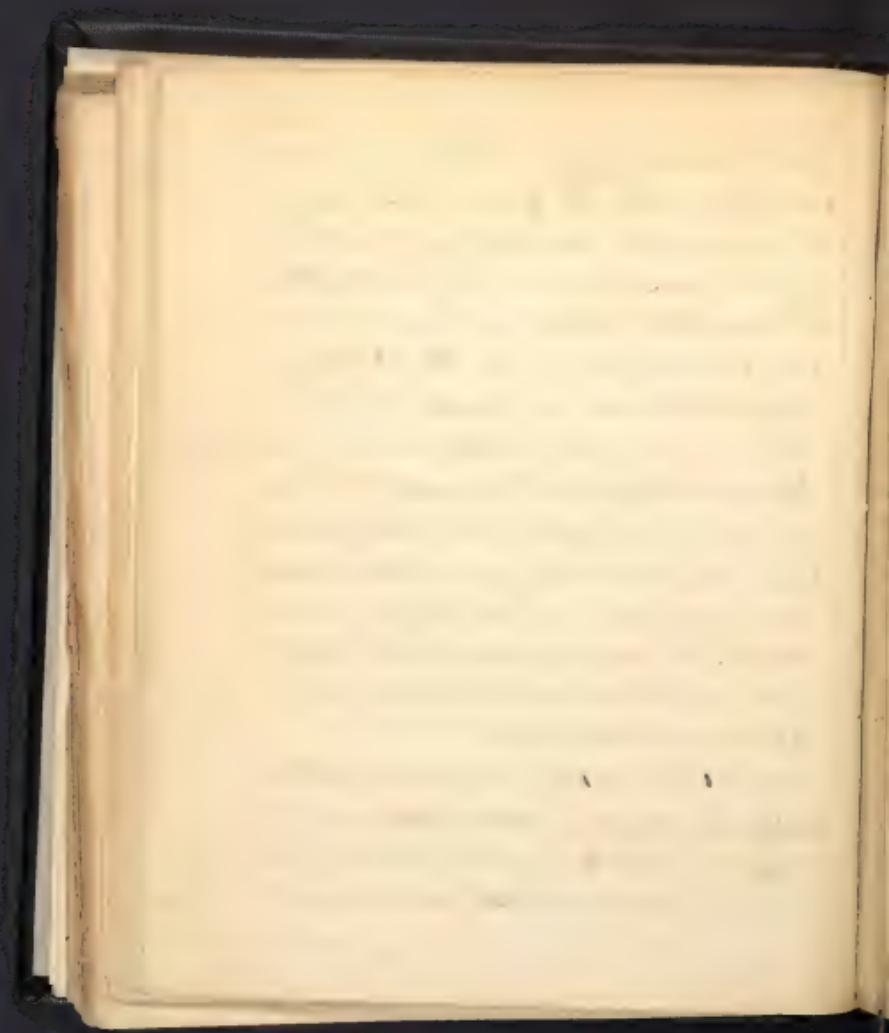
The Sassafras and Purple are very useful articles; the former of which, is particularly suited to the cases of Arankard.

The Mineral tonics seem to possess much more efficacy in this disease, than the vegetable. Among them, the preparations of Iron, hold the first place. The carbonate is most commonly employed, but it is inferior in point of efficacy, to the sulphate. The former is given in the dose of ten grains, with a small portion of ginger



and the latter, of two or three grains, made into pills. The Phosphate of Iron may be given in the same dose, and under the same circumstances as the Sulphate. The Mercurial tincture of Iron is also employed, in the dose of from ten, to twenty draps. These are the remedies for the management of a simple case of Dyspepsia. But, in the progress of the disease, several symptoms draw, as before mentioned, which are painful in themselves, and aggravate considerably, the general disease. The management of these, must, of course, be subordant to the general plan of treatment.

Of the symptoms alluded to, I shall treat of cardialgia first. It consists in a burning sensation of the stomach, popularly denominated heartburn. It arises



very frequently from acidity of the stomach; and is very frequently relieved by emetics, though they must be used with caution. The Alkaline and absorbent Medicines are more commonly employed for its relief; such as Potash, Soda, and Ammonia, either in their pure, or carbonatized states, together with expanded Grotto, or Oyster Shells, Magnesia, and lime water. This last Medicine is very frequently prescribed, and its efficacy generally known. A domestic Remedy has been employed with considerable success, and has the reputation of curing one of our most distinguished Medical individuals. My allusion is to the bay powdered from hickory ashes. The time of taking is immediately after each meal; as at any other time



it is very disagreeable. A superior  
bromated preparation of Potash called  
Sal Muriatic has lately been emploied  
with considerable success, in the dose of  
a tea-spoonful in three doses. The ve-  
getable acids are said to possess effi-  
cacy in this particular case.

Part of Gastrognia. This consists of  
painful spasms of the stomach. The  
remedies employed for immediate relief  
are Opium, Sallet, Musk, Spirits Cam-  
phire, Oil of Ambergoud, in short, all hot  
oils of remedies denominated Antispas-  
modics; among which Opium is the  
most effectual. The remedies employed in  
the mean time, to prevent the recurrence  
of the paroxysms, are the Elixir Profi-  
tatis, Narins cordial. Spirit of Cam-  
phire, and the Oile of Bismuth.



Connected with gastralgia, &c, sometimes,  
a distressing disease of flatulence: but  
the remedies for that symptom, will be suffi-  
cient for both. When flatulence occurs in  
dependently of gastralgia, we may  
recommend as palliations, and to destroy  
the tendency to it, either of Sarsaparilla alone,  
or, combined with Per. Bark. When it  
follows gastralgia with a sense of leaden  
obstruction, a dry pill of Sisackuanha  
composed of two grains, given shortly after  
gastralgia, answers a very good purpose.

Ptyosis. - Although this is considered  
by some as a distinct disease, yet, it  
is sometimes, undoubtedly, derived from,  
and connected with Chylification.  
That particular kind of ptyosis that I  
shall treat of, seems to depend on an ad-  
tent section of the stomach.



This is to be managed by Comfits when the discharge is copious, to be followed by antacids, such as, lime water and milk, the alkaline, and emollient preparations. Oil of Amber, Spices of Serpentine, and Oxide of Zinc may also be employed.

Palpitations. This, although it may arise from other causes, is a very trou- blesome attendant on Dyspepsia.

Besides this disease, it may arise from anæmia of the heart or great blood vessels, from an enlarged pancreas, from a tumour at the Root of the mesentery, and finally, from water in the Chest, particularly in the pericardium. It is sometimes exceedingly difficult to determine when it arises from Dyspepsia. But the most exact Acagnosis will be founded upon the history of the case.



The remedies, are, antacids, and antispas-  
modics, such as formerly mentioned.

There is still another very distressing  
symptom connected with this disease.  
My allusion is, to the sick-head-ache.  
The means of managing it, are Tonics,  
which are sometimes very effectual,  
Absorbents, Alkalies, and Opium.

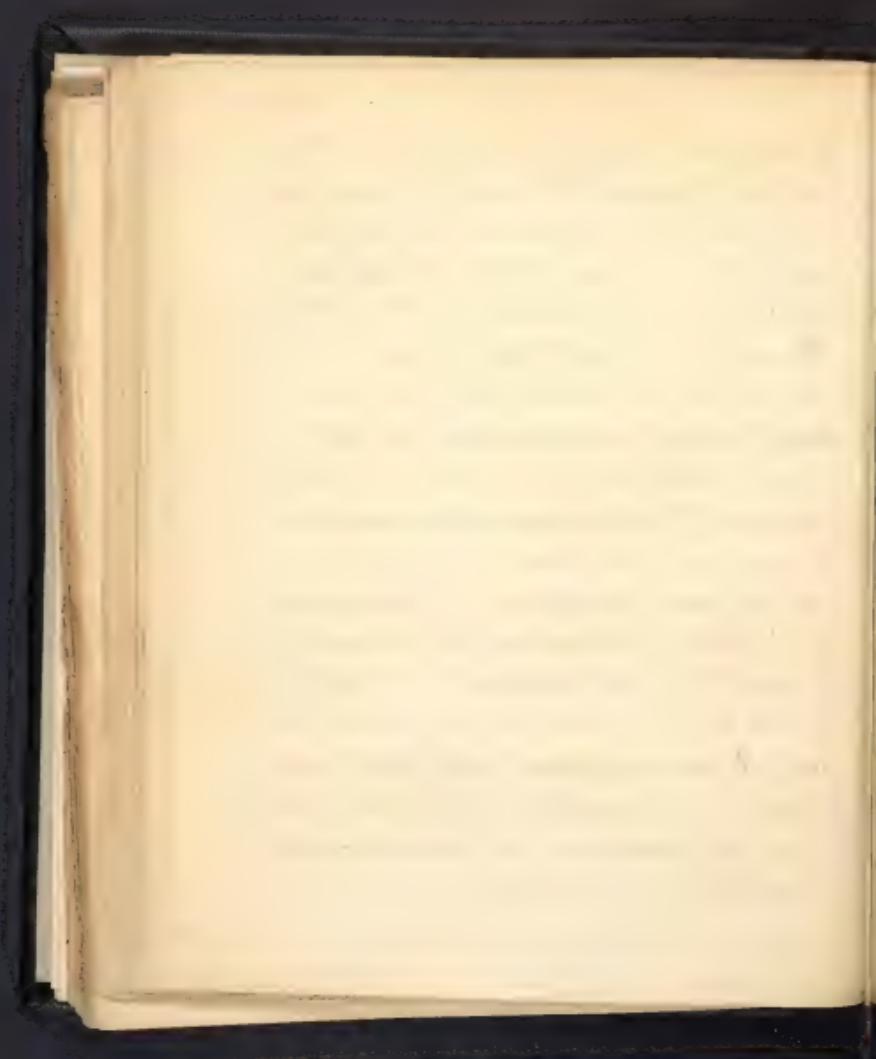
Lemon or lime juice in the amount of a  
(tablespoonful) answers well. To these may  
be added, a tumbler full of hard ev-  
aporated. When there is excitement in the  
system, the subtraction of a few ounces  
of blood, is indispensable.

Dyspepsia is sometimes so firmly est-  
ablished, as to resist all the preceding  
remedies. consisting, as it does, of a  
lemony action of the stomach, producing  
a violent action of the gastric fibers.

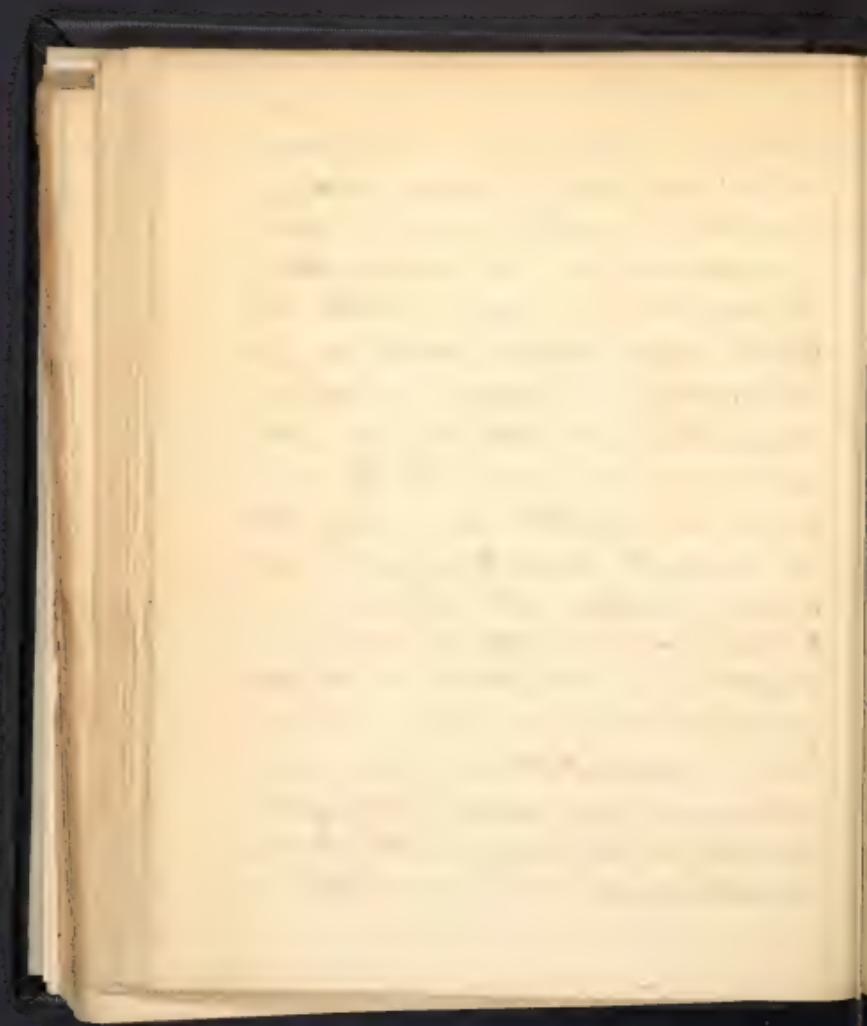


Mercury will be found to be the most effective remedy. It should be given in minute doses alone, or combined with Spt. ac. unaria and Opium. Of the blue salts may be given as recommended by Mr. Abernethy. When Mercury fails, or is disagreeable, the Nitro-Mercuric acid may be used internally and externally as a substitute. The Danatol is recommended with the same view, under similar circumstances.

It has also been proposed by Wilson Elliot, to apply galvanism, for the purpose of reinstating the nerves. The suggestion is an ingenious one, and may lead one day, to an important mitigation of the sufferings connected with this, and perhaps other Diseases. He has proven, I think, by his experiments, that



Galenism is identified with the nervous fluid. They are of such a nature, and conduction is such a manner, as to leave no doubt with me, on the subject. It has been said, however, an objection to this theory, that his experiments do not necessarily prove the identity of the nervous fluid and galenism, because, the latter may be the mere want only, of the former. This to me appears inconceivable; for, in order that there should be a secretion (of the gastric liquor for example) it is necessary for two things only, to exist. 1. All power to act. 2. A susceptibility on the part of the stomach to its action. All will agree, I suppose, that the nervous fluid is the power that acts. If, then, the nervous fluid have access to the stomach, an action must ensue, without the ad-



dition of any stimulant, and if it have not, no stimulant can incite it to act on a part, with which it is totally dis-  
connected. The very idea, of having a  
stimulant, to produce an action between  
an agent, and a part insusceptible to the  
action of that agent, is, to me, prepos-  
terior. From the known potency of the  
imponderable fluids, and their existence  
throughout all Matter, I do not hesi-  
tate to declare, as my belief, that cor-  
rect physiological opinions, will be founded  
upon facts, with which Heat, Light,  
and Electricity, are intimately connected.

I have now finished the treatment  
of the first stage of Hydrocephalus, both for  
the simple, and complicated forms.

The second stage, being essentially differ-  
ent in its character from the first, the



now being inflammatory, and the other nervous;) the treatment, of course, varies considerably. Tonics must be thrown aside, and the antiphlogistic treatment strictly adhered to. Small and repeated bleedings purgatives of a saline nature in minute doses, and opium in doses so small as not to narcotize, must be employed. If these means fail, we must add a Mercury, or use it alone, with a blister to the epigastric region, and a duly regulated diet. These remedies are mostly successful. The Nitro-Muriatic acid, and the Dandelion, may be used as substitutes for Mercury, if required. When the inflammation of the second stage is subsided, the case must be treated, precisely, as a case of the first stage. The cases of Drunkards, are to be treated



with Opium, Stimulants, Garlic, Asafoetida, and cordial nourishment, in the first stage, and in the second, by then Aperient Measures, before mentioned, for the management of the second stage of Dyspepsia. It must not be forgotten, that they bear a relation, with considerable inconveniences.

When organic derangement of the stomach takes place, our treatment must consist substantially, of Opium, or some other narcotic.

Diet. We come now, to a very important part, in the management of Dyspepsia, without the concomitance of which, all other means must prove abortive. Of all the articles, that a dyspeptic patient can use, that of Milk, is probably the most beneficial. It in part has cured the disease itself. It ought



to be fresh from the board. But if it should disagree with the patient, chocolate may be substituted, always sweetening the bowels of the enigma. If this also should prove disagreeable, weak black-bean, added by some solid food, such as, tender bits of Mutton, or beef, may be used. If the stomach be debilitated, beef, Mutton, common powders, turkey, oysters, slightly cooked, & game, of most kinds, such as, pheasant, partridges, venison, &c may be eaten with advantage. Coffe, green tea, pork, (bacon) lamb, ducks, goats, and fish, are also admissible. To these may be added, soups of all kinds, cakes, and toasts. As little vegetable matter as possible should be used; though rice, and boiled potatoes, may occasionally be employed, in small quantities. The bread used should



be stale; or, if the patient prefer them, he may use bran bread, or crackers.

In the second stage, the diet should consist wholly of deminutives. Here are the articles of diet to be employed; but then are yet some circumstances connected with their exhibition, which demand attention. 1. The patient should eat little at a time, and frequently. 2. The diet should be as simple as possible, consisting wholly of one kind. 3. Very little drink ought to be taken at meals. 4. The fluid should be well chewed. 5. The patient ought not to smite the food, and for that reason should eat it cold. 6. The food ought not to be mashed, as it will be swallowed without the proper mixture of saliva. 7. A small quantity of food should be placed before the



patient at a time, for fear of disgusting him.

In regard to drinks, water is the most suitable. Old porter may be used sometimes, but it is not generally beneficial. Wine of all sorts, is pernicious. Brandy and water may be used sometimes in small quantities, but it is most particularly suited to the case of drunkards. In the second stage, nothing but water or demulcents should be used.

In sea and obstinate cases, the employment of the cold and warm bath, fusions and fusions, will be productive of immense utility. The bath may be used less as than twice a week, well calculated in such, according to circumstances. Fusions may be employed once every day, the



ordinary manner is, to rub half an hour, or more, the whole body, with fine dry salt; till it creates a universal glow. In regard to Exercise, two general rules may be laid down, which ought never to be transgred. The first is, not to exercise so as to bring on fatigue, and the second, not to over-exercise at all, for two hours after each meal, or with an empty stomach. The most important modes of exercising, are swinging, sailing, walking, and riding; and the one best adapted to the particular case, should be employed.

The clothing of the patient should be warm, consisting for the most part of flannels; the stockings should be worsted, and dressed with pepper, always keeping in view the pernicious effects of cold feet. All our remedial failing, we should



our patients first, & the Saratoga springs,  
they being laxative, and secondly, to those of  
Balltown, they being tonic.

But in vain will we attempt to cure  
Asthma, if the patient does not studious-  
ly avoid all the remote, and exciting caus-  
es. This will, perhaps, be the most difficult  
part of the treatment; as the disease gen-  
erally commences at an age, when the  
habits of man are so confirmed, as to  
be almost assimilated with his nature.  
But we must impress strongly on the  
patient's mind, the penalty of transgres-  
sion, and the necessary renunciation of  
his former scheme of life, to the condem-  
nation of a perfect cure. —

de modo que se diera una  
ciudad que no tuviera una  
ciudad en su seno. Algunas  
ciudades se dieron en su  
interior de la siguiente  
manera. Se impidió la  
de una cosa en la otra  
de que pudiera ser una  
ciudad dentro de otra. Se  
dieron ciudades que  
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